United Nations E/C.20/2015/13

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
26 May 2015

Original: English

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
Fifth session
New York, 5-7 August 2015
Item 13 of the provisional agenda*
Activities related to sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda

Activities related to sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management its report on activities related to sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda. The report is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the ways in which the global geospatial community can contribute to sustainable development and support the post-2015 development agenda.

Summary of the report

At its fourth session, held in New York from 6 to 8 August 2014, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 4/102, in which it expressed its appreciation for efforts promoting the importance of reliable geospatial information in measuring and monitoring the goals of the post-2015 development agenda. It also noted that the current debate on a new United Nations development agenda provided a unique opportunity for the Committee of Experts to raise the visibility and awareness of the importance of geospatial information as an enabler of sustainable development. The Committee of Experts agreed that the understanding and use of geographic and geospatial information in sustainable development, particularly at the policy and decision-making levels, needed to be enhanced, encouraged Member States to ensure that the initiatives and activities related to sustainable development included geospatial information in their national frameworks, and took note of their commitment towards the ongoing discussion on disaster risk reduction.

* E/C.20/2015/1.

15-08188 (E) 080615

Please recycle

In its report, the Secretariat describes the increase in multiple advocacy initiatives that demonstrate the role of geospatial information in sustainable development and the efforts to consolidate the mission of the working group on a global map for sustainable development and mainstream it in the sustainable development context. It also highlights particular efforts in that regard that were undertaken at key global events, including the third High-level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management on the theme "Sustainable development with geospatial Information", held in Beijing from 22 to 24 October 2014; the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015, at which innovations in the application of earth observations, satellite imagery, geographic and geospatial information, robotics and information communications technology were shown to support the implementation of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction; and a side event on the theme "Unleashing the power of where to make the world a better place: how geographic information contributes to achieving the sustainable development goals", which was held on the margins of the intergovernmental negotiations on sustainable development conducted at United Nations Headquarters in April 2015. In parallel, the global geospatial community has also contributed to the 2015 edition of the United Nations Global Sustainable Development Report, with a special focus on new data approaches for monitoring sustainable development progress in Africa.